

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Category: *Behavioral and Social Sciences*

Division: *Elementary School*

First Place

Quinn Butero
Bill Metz Elementary School
Proving to Teachers That Kids Can Fidget While Working

Second Place

Emily Dicker
Bill Metz Elementary School
Truth in Pixels: Can You Recognize AI Art?

Third Place

Layla Wright
La Jara Elementary School
Artificial Dye vs Natural Dye: Can you tell the difference?

Honorable Mention

Annaliyah Padilla
Bill Metz Elementary School
Does Color Affect Taste?

Honorable Mention

Seth Miller
Bowen Mortensen
Sanford Elementary School
Can You Spot the Bot?

Division: *High School*

First Place

Abigail Adams
Julia Leary
Alamosa High School
Party Lines and Blind Spots: An Examination of the Introspection Illusion

Second Place

Lydia Boyd
Monte Vista High School
ADHD in the San Luis Valley - Phase II

Third Place

Savannah Schaefer
Monte Vista High School
What a Fun Subject... Depression! The Effects of Seasonal Depression on People in the San Luis Valley

Honorable Mention

Mayleigh Blount
Sargent High School
Think For Yourself

Honorable Mention

April Perez
Monte Vista High School
I Tried, But Then Gave Up: Learned Helplessness in Students

Honorable Mention

Skylar Fremouw
Monte Vista High School
Age Angst? : Seeing if Rebelliousness is Related to Age

Division: *Middle School*

First Place

JuliAnna Medina
Monte Vista Middle School
Insecurities? Why?- Part 2

Second Place

Julissa Naranjo
Sargent Middle School
Think, Drink, React

Third Place

Isa Aguilar
Ortega Middle School
Music vs Performance

Honorable Mention

Jayir Gonzalez
Sierra Grande Middle School
Music in Motion

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Category: *Biomedical Sciences*

Division: *Elementary School*

First Place

Addisyn Martinez

Bill Metz Elementary School

The Cleaner the Better

Second Place

Makenzie Mortensen

Sanford Elementary School

Germs: It's Whats for Dinner!

Third Place

Madeline Ward

Bill Metz Elementary School

Natures Killers: Food That Might Kill Bacteria

Honorable Mention

Lyla Johnson

Mountain Valley Elementary School

The Disinfectants Test

Honorable Mention

Tahlya Soto

Bill Metz Elementary School

Growing Bacteria

Honorable Mention

Jude Mills McKim

Bill Metz Elementary School

The Five Second Rule

Division: *High School*

Second Place

Eva Trujillo

Center High School

Does Lung Capacity Cause Lung Cancer

Third Place

Estella Alvarez

Stice and Heritage Academy High School

Why do some people respond to drugs differently than others?

Honorable Mention

Makayla Armenta

Antonito Senior High School

Minerva Gonzalez

Herbal clean: Can Rosemary Out-wash Commercial Hand Soaps?

Honorable Mention

Madison Gray

Antonito Senior High School

Jaylah Ruybal

"From Fresh to Fuzzy": Testing household additives to slow bread mold.

Division: *Middle School*

First Place

Kynzleigh Hanel

Sargent Middle School

Barnyard Bacteria: Testing for Bacteria in Goat Bedding

Second Place

Daxon Peddy

Home School Middle School

From Grain to Glucose: Fresh vs. Store Bought Flour and Its Affect on Blood Sugar

Third Place

Wyatt Miller

Sargent Middle School

Prevalence of MRSA Nasal Swabs in Rural Health Care Workers

Honorable Mention

Trevor Bagwell

Centauri Middle School

H2-Go vs. Turbo Fuel

Honorable Mention

Niela Medina

Sargent Middle School

Two Organs, One Problem!

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Honorable Mention

Oaklyn Brady
Kyndall McCarroll

Centauri Middle School

Eggs and Reflexes: Timing the Perfect Reaction

Category: **Botany**

Division: **Elementary School**

First Place

Autumn Prislinger

Mountain Valley Elementary School

Hydroponic Basil

Second Place

Adelina Mills

Sierra Grande Elementary School

From Bud to Beauty

Third Place

Mikael Bernal

Haskin Elementary School

Salty Plants

Honorable Mention

Amalia Roybal

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Can you Grow Plants Without Soil

Honorable Mention

Keilen Carrell

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Leaf me a Melody

Division: **High School**

First Place

Emilio Ortiz

Monte Vista High School

Roots to Resilience: Testing the Effects of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Different Potato Cultivars Under Simulated Drought Conditions.

Second Place

Ernesto Ochoa-Marquez

Monte Vista High School

Watt the spud?: A study on how environmental-induced stress can affect the electrophysiology of S.Tuberosum.

Third Place

Alannah Lujan
Natalia Romero

Antonito Senior High School

Composting with Aloe vera: An Alternative Way of Making Organic Fertilizer

Honorable Mention

Logan Hernandez

Monte Vista High School

Buds for our Buds

Honorable Mention

Micaela Casillas

Stice and Heritage Academy High School

What Type of Tea is the Best for Plant Growth?

Division: **Middle School**

First Place

Talon Hodgson

Sargent Middle School

Nature's Filters

Second Place

Titus Cody

Ortega Middle School

Germination Station

Third Place

Mason Price
Perfectly Shaped Spuds: A Study of Potato Uniformity

Sargent Middle School

Honorable Mention

Aylwen Larson

Sargent Middle School

Testing the Impact of Magnetic Polarity on Plant Growth

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Honorable Mention

Jayden Boyd

Stice and Heritage Academy Middle School

Growing Mushrooms in Different Substances

Category: **Chemistry**

Division: **Elementary School**

First Place

Brigston Barr

Sanford Elementary School

Walter Larson

Tasy Snack or Acid Attack?

Second Place

Helen Davey

Upper Rio Grande Elementary School

Elisa Story

From Sacrifice to Celebration: Making the Perfect Cheesecake!

Third Place

Keon Rendon

Sanford Elementary School

Light Up That Candy!

Honorable Mention

Aizlynn Benitez

Haskin Elementary School

Amelia Enquist

Potato Lights

Honorable Mention

Brennan Birdsey

Creede Elementary School

Rosalie Kuhnel

The Ancient Egyptians Methods and History of Mummification

Honorable Mention

Aziel Martinez

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Your Teeth Called They Prefer Water

Division: **High School**

First Place

Liam Griffin

Sargent High School

Comparative Thermodynamic Analysis of Conventional and Alternative Deicers

Second Place

Bogar Quezada

Sierra Grande High School

Desulfurization II: The Effects of Hydrogen Sulfide in Agriculture

Honorable Mention

Lawliet Montoya

Stice and Heritage Academy High School

Nail Glue Retention: With vs. Without Prep

Division: **Middle School**

First Place

Kenley Mitchell

Sargent Middle School

Small Plastics Big Problems!

Second Place

Sydney Montague

Centauri Middle School

Medicine War

Third Place

Izzy Boyd

Monte Vista Middle School

Baking Bread

Honorable Mention

Lake Nadeau

Ortega Middle School

The Big Egg-speriment

Honorable Mention

Tatum Martin

Sargent Middle School

Sun, Salt and Snap!

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Category: *Consumer Sciences*

Division: *Middle School*

First Place

Lizzie Paulson

Sargent Middle School

No Flies In My Fries

Second Place

Destrella Garcia

Monte Vista Middle School

Energy Drinks Affects on the "Other White Meat" (horror)

Third Place

Kaden French

Sierra Grande Middle School

What Potato Would Make the Best Battery

Honorable Mention

Brand Register

Sargent Middle School

Fiber force

Honorable Mention

Troy Henderson

Centauri Middle School

Fast Flames: The Race to Extinguish

Honorable Mention

Armando Ruybal

Sargent Middle School

"Shine On! The Battle of Teeth Whiteners"

Category: *Earth and Space Science*

Division: *Elementary School*

First Place

David Silvas III

La Jara Elementary School

Air today, Gone Tomorrow..... Tracking Barometer Pressure

Second Place

Kaydence Shawcroft

Manassa Elementary School

It's All About Erosion

Third Place

Jamie Sanchez

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Moonlight vs. Starlight

Honorable Mention

Isabella Mills

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Moon Magic, Why the Moon Looks Different Every Night

Honorable Mention

Evelyn Wisniewski

La Jara Elementary School

Where Did All the Stars Go?

Division: *High School*

First Place

Will Walker

Monte Vista High School

Modeling the Impacts of Flow Rate on Riparian Beach Stability

Second Place

Alexis Gonzales

Monte Vista High School

Well? What's in your well?

Third Place

Lorea Duran Jara

stice and Heritage Academy High School

Rock Cycle

Division: *Middle School*

First Place

Paisley Vandiver

Sargent Middle School

Lock in Bro: Testing Which Soil Holds Fertilizer the Best

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Second Place

Elijah Brown

Sargent Middle School

The Elements Beneath Us

Third Place

Ally Manzanares

Sierra Grande Middle School

How Different Heights of Volcanoes Change Lava Flow

Category: **Engineering**

Division: **Elementary School**

First Place

Creede Anderson

Creede Elementary School

Henry Meals

Hydraulic Force in Action: Using Water to Lift Weight

Second Place

Kenan Cano

Mountain Valley Elementary School

Zoom!

Third Place

Jase Sandoval

Mountain Valley Elementary School

London Bridge is Falling Down

Honorable Mention

Ezekiel Quintana

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Marble Mayham

Honorable Mention

Forever Garcia

Sierra Grande Elementary School

The Sound of Floating

Honorable Mention

Keith Jones

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Shooting a Gauss Rifle

Division: **High School**

First Place

Logan Futrell

Monte Vista High School

The Infusion Solution - Designing a multifunction medical pump to treat hyper/hypoglycemia

Second Place

Rylen Ross

Monte Vista High School

Look Behind You: Using Sonar Sensors to Detect Oncoming Vehicles for Biker Safety

Third Place

Westlea Tipword

Monte Vista High School

Solar-Powered Enclosed Bug Zapper

Honorable Mention

James Little

Monte Vista High School

Flying through Air and Sea: Multi-Terrain Drone

Division: **Middle School**

First Place

Callie Griffin

Sargent Middle School

Feel the Game: Basketball for the Blind

Second Place

Dallin Guymon

Centauri Middle School

Unbreakable Bridge

Third Place

Hugo Sondrol

Home School Middle School

Enhancing Banana Bio cardboard Strength with Eggshells

Honorable Mention

Trevor Cook

Ortega Middle School

Freezer Vs Heater Concrete Strength Test

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Honorable Mention

Elizabeth Dean
Ori McDonald

Monte Vista Middle School

Compressed Air Engine to the Test

Honorable Mention

Anthony Gomez
Michael Martinez

Sierra Grande Middle School

The Revolutionary Screw

Category: *Environmental Sciences*

Division: *Elementary School*

First Place

Levi Brittain

Creede Elementary School

Can Brine Shrimp Detect Water Quality?

Second Place

Sadriel Parra

Bill Metz Elementary School

Cleaning Up Oil Spills

Third Place

Alexander Banuelos

Sierra Grande Elementary School

The Clean Water Machine

Honorable Mention

Ryleigh Creel

Upper Rio Grande Elementary School

How Much Salt Has To Be In The Ocean To Make An Egg Float?

Honorable Mention

Morgan Nicolais

Upper Rio Grande Elementary School

How does a tornado move things?

Honorable Mention

Brynn Rodriguez
Mia Rodriguez

Haskin Elementary School

Testing Different Waters and Chemicals

Division: *High School*

First Place

Lola Sondrol

Monte Vista High School

Sustainable Cleanup: Mycoremediation as a Green Alternative for Heavy Metal Removal

Second Place

Paisley Anderson

Creede High School

The Rusting Creek: The Impact of Mining Contamination on Riparian Vegetation in West Willow Creek

Third Place

Addison Mondragon

Monte Vista High School

Sink or Swim II: Analyzing Impacts of River Conservation Methods on Each Other While Building River Conservation Projects

Division: *Middle School*

First Place

Clara Miller

Sanford Middle School

Coop to Crop: How Chicken's Affect the Soil

Third Place

Brooke Sliwkowski

Creede Middle School

How Well is Your Water?

Honorable Mention

Eva Stewart

tice and Heritage Academy Middle Schc

Environmental Restoration

Category: *Mathematics and Computer Science*

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Division: *Elementary School*

First Place

Elle McCarn

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Level Up Your Reflexes

Second Place

Eryn Miller

Sierra Grande Elementary School

The MM Math Quest

Third Place

Evelyn Maxwell

Upper Rio Grande Elementary School

Want To Make A Video Game? Here's How!

Division: *High School*

Third Place

Madelyn Garberich

Alamosa High School

Difficulty and Decidability of NP-Complete Puzzles

Honorable Mention

Josiah Houser

Sargent High School

Bin It to Win It: A Study of Recycling

Division: *Middle School*

First Place

Alex Dicker

Monte Vista Middle School

Reducing Human Pesticide Exposure With Technology

Second Place

Adam Daniels

Ortega Middle School

AI Identify

Third Place

Christian Bousquet

Monte Vista Middle School

Racist AI

Honorable Mention

Bostyn Forrester

Sierra Grande Middle School

Digital Photo Contest

Category: *Physics*

Division: *Elementary School*

First Place

Kolstin Reynolds

Sanford Elementary School

Magnet Melt Down

Second Place

Ellie Henderson

La Jara Elementary School

Move It Move It

Third Place

Eunice Casillas

Justice and Heritage Academy Elementary

The Effect of Water Temperature on Hydrogel Adsorption

Third Place

Olivia Lancaster

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Bounce Fever Turning up the Heat

Honorable Mention

Elisha Casas

Bill Metz Elementary School

Clean Water

Honorable Mention

Eddie Espinoza

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Shooting Hoops

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Honorable Mention

Mayci Rigodon

Sierra Grande Elementary School

Up, up, and Away

Division: *High School*

First Place

Tanner Houser

Sargent High School

Demonstrating a Potential Method for Black Hole Information Recovery via a Simulated Hawking Radiation Model

Second Place

Sydney Curtis

Sargent High School

Volumetric Analysis of Cast-Off Patterns for Physical Profiling

Honorable Mention

Kasimir Romero

Justice and Heritage Academy High School

Sun-Tracking Solar Panel

Division: *Middle School*

First Place

Cason Mattive

Sargent Middle School

Power Of The Prop

Second Place

Mason Klecker

Sargent Middle School

Weld Wars

Third Place

Kya King

Sanford Middle School

Ghost Waves: Measuring Invisible EMF in My Home

Honorable Mention

Mark Bush

Centauri Middle School

An Investigation Into Hammering Forces

Honorable Mention

Faryn Jackson

Centauri Middle School

Catapult vs Probability

Category: *Zoology*

Division: *Elementary School*

First Place

Gage Henderson

Sargent Elementary School

Chute Tunes: Can Music Keep Cattle Calm?

Second Place

Jacee Bielenberg

Creede Elementary School

Great Smells

Third Place

Taela Jaminet
Kennasyn Johnson

Sanford Elementary School

From Dirty to Dazzling!

Honorable Mention

Leanita Gallegos

Bill Metz Elementary School

Ants Favorite Color

Honorable Mention

Izaiah Johnston
Rayden Pitney

Bill Metz Elementary School

What Do Ants Like to Eat?

Honorable Mention

Winter Seebach

Bill Metz Elementary School

Do the Kitty High Five!

2026 Place (Grand) Awards Press Release

Division: High School

First Place

Jaelie Jaminet

Sanford High School

Observing pH Levels to Predict Parturition in Mares

Second Place

Lucy Brittain

Creede High School

Can They Coexist? The Steaks Have Never Been Higher

Division: Middle School

First Place

Khaleesi Reynolds

Sargent Middle School

Can't Resist This

Second Place

Jaycee Francis

Sargent Middle School

Worm Wars

Third Place

Madison Squires

Sargent Middle School

Chew on This - Does the Type of Wood Matter if Horses Crib or Not

Honorable Mention

Alyssa Voss

Sargent Middle School

Hopping Towards Flavor

Honorable Mention

Nyleah Llanez

tice and Heritage Academy Middle Schc

How much bacteria is on a horse's hoof?
